

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a 371 of PCT/US99/19011, filed August 17, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial number 60/096,803, filed August 17, 1998.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

For this study, a group of four amino acids, Gly-(D)-Ala-Gly-Gly (GAGG) was chosen as a chelating moiety. Through their NH₂ groups, these peptides provide an N₄ configuration for a strong chelation of Tc-99m. Rather than the conventional post-synthesis conjugation, the tetrapeptide chelating moiety permitted the modification of the primary peptide at the C terminus during the synthesis. Furthermore, during the synthesis, an additional amino acid, Aba (~~(D)-4-aminobutyric acid~~) (4-aminobutyric acid), was inserted as a spacer between the chelating moiety and the primary peptide. The purpose of inserting Aba as a spacer was to minimize any possible steric hindrance resulting from the Tc-99m complex. The synthesis of this modified peptide was one hybrid process which eliminated the multi-step, lengthy, and frequently inefficient conjugation procedure, yet provided a chelating group for a strong chelation of Tc-99m. The resultant decapeptide, Gly-Pro-Arg-Pro-Pro-Aba-Gly-Gly-(D)-Ala-Gly (SEQ ID NO. 5) which has an expected M.W. of 850, is hereinafter referred to as TP 850.